



FY15 TRIBAL CONSULTATION DISCUSSION GUIDE AND QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Early Childhood System Building – Successes, Challenges and Priorities

In 2010, First Things First convened a task force of diverse stakeholders to create a shared vision for a statewide early childhood system and identify the critical components of that system. The task force envisioned a coordinated, comprehensive system with the following outcomes:

Six System Outcomes

When we succeed, all of us will benefit from living in communities where:

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| 1 | All children have access to high-quality, culturally-responsive early care and education that promotes their development. | 4 | All early childhood education and health professionals are well-prepared, highly skilled and compensated based on their education and experience. |
| 2 | All children have access to high-quality preventive and continuous health care, including physical, mental, oral and nutritional health. | 5 | The early childhood system is high-quality, centered on children and families, coordinated, integrated and comprehensive. |
| 3 | All families have the information, services and support they need to help their children achieve to their fullest potential. | 6 | All Arizonans understand the importance of the early years and the impact of early childhood development, health and education on Arizona's quality of life. As a result, they substantially support — both politically and financially — a model system that delivers these benefits. |

Related to these six system outcomes, in its 2010 Tribal Consultation, First Things First asked participating tribes and nations about what they felt were the areas their tribal communities might focus on in early childhood system building. The participating tribes and nations identified four areas they felt required focused attention in their communities, including: early screening and intervention; supports and services for families; early childhood system funding; and, information and education for families.

Building an effective early childhood system does not require equal attention to all system outcomes all the time. Different communities focus on different strategies, depending on their local priorities and resources. For example, one community may focus on expanding programs, others may focus on coordination between existing programs, and still others may focus on improving the quality of existing programs or funding new ones.

With the six systems outcomes noted above in mind, as a part of this consultation session, we invite your input on the following questions:

1. What have been some of the successes your tribe or nation has realized as you have worked to develop or expand your early childhood systems?
2. What challenges or barriers has your tribe or nation encountered in your early childhood system-building efforts and what approaches have been successful in overcoming those challenges?
3. Looking forward, what are some of the priorities or focus areas for your tribe or nation as efforts continue to build early childhood systems in your tribal community?
4. What are your recommendations for how First Things First can be an even more effective partner in the development of early childhood systems in tribal communities?

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Expanding the Circle – Building on Effective Partnerships to Advance the System

Ensuring that all Arizona children arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed requires the involvement of public and private partners that collectively engage in building and investing in a quality early childhood system. A strategic approach to partnerships and seeking and leveraging various types of resources – financial and otherwise – are essential to building a sustainable high-impact early childhood system. In 2013, the First Things First Board established a committee to identify areas where First Things First should focus its future partnership efforts. The committee's recommendations for enhancing partnerships with Arizona's Indian tribes and nations are included in those recommendations and outlined in the attached document. As a part of this consultation session, we invite your input on the following questions:

1. Do you have any feedback or overall comments on the contents of the First Things First Private-Public Partnership Plan as it relates to enhancing partnerships with Indian tribes and nations? Are any of the strategies outlined in the plan of concern for your tribe or nation?
2. As outlined in the plan, First Things First seeks to identify best-practice models for partnerships with Arizona tribes. What are some ways that your tribe or nation has partnered with non-tribal entities to benefit systemic priorities?
3. The plan includes a variety of strategies to expand partnerships with tribal communities. What are your recommendations for ways in which First Things First can do this that honor tribal sovereignty and are culturally appropriate?